

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 EURE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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-----121744Z 020208 /47

O R 121724Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4649

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, FR, IS, GW

SUBJECT: FRG REACTION TO RELEASE OF ABU DAOUD

REFS: (A) BONN 0517; (B) BONN 0535; (C) PARIS 0946

(NOTAL)

1. FRG SPOKESMAN BOELLING STATED IN PRESS STATEMENT
TODAY THAT FRG HAD BEEN SURPRISED AT RELEASE OF DAOUD
BY FRANCE. EARLIER, MINISTER OF JUSTICE VOGEL HAD
TERMED FRENCH ACTION REGRETTABLE AND NOT IN ACCORD WITH
EITHER NORMAL PRACTICE OR FRG/GOF EXTRADITION AGREE-
MENT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST INTER-
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NATIONAL TERRORISM WAS NOT SERVED BY FRENCH ACTION.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT FRG TO PROTEST FORMALLY TO
THE FRENCH. IT HAS MADE ITS UNHAPPINESS KNOWN PUBLICLY
AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO PRIVATELY, WE SUSPECT.

3. THE GERMAN LEGAL CASE AGAINST DAOUD IS SOMEWHAT A

MOOT ONE AT THIS POINT. OUR GERMAN CONTACTS TELL US THAT THEY WERE PROCEEDING WITH THEIR EXTRADITION REQUEST AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THOUGHT THEY HAD EIGHTEEN DAYS TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST. THEY WERE TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE -- AND TAKEN ABACK -- BY THE PRECIPITATE FRENCH RELEASE OF DAOUD. THE ONLY DELAY IN THE EXTRADITION REQUEST WAS CAUSED BY FAILURE OF FRENCH TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION OF DAOUD (FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPH). WE UNDERSTAND THAT GERMAN CASE (AS DRAWN UP BY BAVARIAN AUTHORITIES) RESTED ON CHARGES OF ACCESSORY TO MURDER AND TAKING OF HOSTAGES BECAUSE OF HIS ROLE AS ADVISOR AND CONTACT MAN FOR ARAB TERRORISTS AT MUNICH OLYMPIC GAMES.

4. WE NOTE FRENCH CLAIM IN PARIS 946 THAT "BONN BEGAN BACKPEDALLING FURIOUSLY." WE WILL LOOK FURTHER INTO THIS POSSIBILITY, BUT ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION WE HAVE AT PRESENT, OUR PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. OUR GERMAN SOURCES CLAIM THAT THEY PRODUCED AN ARREST WARRANT IN SHORT TIME ONCE FRENCH HAD MADE KNOWN DETENTION OF DAOUD AND WERE PREPARING FORMAL EXTRADITION REQUEST AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

5. THE GERMAN PRESS REACTION WAS LIVELY. HEADLINES SUCH AS "PARIS BENDS TO ARAB PRESSURE," "MUNICH SURPRISED -- PLO APPEASED," AND "PARIS COURT FREES TERRORIST ABU DAOUD" WERE TYPICAL. EDITORIAL COMMENT IS CRITICAL, FOCUSING ON THE SETBACK

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IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, DECRIMES THE EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN "PRIVILEGED TERRORISTS" -- PALESTINIANS, WHO CONSISTENTLY SEEM TO ESCAPE JUSTICE.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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